Incentives to Officers in Defence Forces

466. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large scale shortage of commissioned officers in the armed forces, especially in Air Force and Navy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that talented youth with higher IQ are not opting for armed forces as their career due to lack of attractive pay scales and other facilities compared to those available to other Central Services;

(c) if so, whether this state of affairs is not going to affect our defence preparedness adversely; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to make the Defence Services more attractive in terms of better pay scales and other incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) The shortage is 12972 in Army, 690 in Navy and 1042 in Air Force.

(b) It is correct only to the extent that for those looking for jobs, there are various other options available today, some of them with much better pay and service conditions, more so in the business world.

(c) and (d) The shortage will not be allowed to affect our defence preparedness. To step up intake of officers in the Services, improvement in pay and service conditions of the Service officers, a vigorous drive for recruitment, projection of positive aspects of Defence Service as a career, enhanced recruitment of Permanent Commissioned and Short Service Commissioned officers, introduction of University Enter Scheme, induction of women as officers, re-employment of retired officers are various measures being taken by the Government.

Improper maintenance of Accommodation by MES in Delhi Cantonment

467. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that numerous complaints of improper maintenance of accommodation of new APS area of Delhi Cantonment by MES authorities have been made and are pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof since 1995 till date;

(c) the action taken on each of these complaints; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the erring officials of MES?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) No complaints on improper maintenance of accommodation of New APS Area of Delhi Cantonment by MES authorities have been received. However, requests for maintenance pertaining to Building and Road, Sewage, Electrical and Mechanical works have been received. Attending to such request is an on-going process and all efforts have been made to attend to these requests in a reasonable time frame.

Deployment of Weapon Control System

468. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the composite Sonar and Tactical Weapon Control System developed at a cost of Rs. 20.00 crores to be deployed on a submarine, is lying idle for the last five years as neither the Naval authorities nor the Ministry of Defence officials have been able to decide where to deploy the said system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per the Cabinet's approval, the said system was to be deployed in the year 1993; and